

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS: This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant patent application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A recombinant viral vector essentially comprising which contains an insert exhibiting the general structure

tTA-intron¹-TK⁺-TetO₇-CMV⁺-intron²-transgene

in which

TetO₇ is the heptamerized tetracycline operator

TK⁺ is the minimal thymidine kinase promoter

tTA is a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a fusion protein from the repressor protein inducible by tetracycline and the transcriptional activation domain of the Herpes simplex virus VP16,

CMV⁺ is the minimal cytomegalovirus promoter and

Transgene is a nucleic acid sequence which codes for a non-viral protein

Intron¹ is any desired non-encoding nucleic acid sequence with a length of O to approximately 1000 bp and

Intron² is any desired non-encoding nucleic acid sequence with a length of O to approximately 1000 bp, wherein the vector is an adenovirus.

2. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 1 wherein the insert is inserted into the viral vector genome in reverse orientation.

3. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the positions of tTA and transgene are inverted in the insert.

4. (previously presented) A vector according to claims 1 to 3 wherein the insert contains an additional lac repressor (lacR) between "CMV⁺" and "intron²" or between "intron²" and "transgene".

5. (previously presented) A vector according to claims 1 to 4 wherein the transgene is a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fluorescence protein, luciferase, interleukin-12 (IL-12),

10/511,237

interleukin-18 (IL-18), interleukin-2 (IL-2), tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α) or interferon- γ (IFN- γ).

6. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 5 wherein IL-12 is a single chain interleukin-12.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A vector according to claims 1 to 6 ~~7~~ wherein the insert is cloned into the E1 and/or the E3 region of a recombinant adenovirus.

9. (currently amended) A vector according to claims 1 to 6 or 8 ~~8~~ wherein it is obtainable by homologous recombination of a viral plasmid and an expression plasmid with the nucleic acid sequence designated SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3.

10. (previously presented) An expression plasmid with the nucleic acid sequence designated SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:5.

11. (previously presented) Production of a vector according to claims 1 to 9, comprising use of a plasmid according to claim 10.

12. (previously presented) In vitro gene expression in eukaryotic cell lines, comprising use of a vector according to claims 1 to 9.

13.-18. (Canceled)